THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, which were last revised in the year 2005, for the entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions for imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, seeking, among other things, prevention of the entry of sub-standard educational institutions, is under consideration of the Government.

Academic Imbalance in some regions

†*250. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to those regions of the country where for want of basic and technical educational institutions, students are being deprived of proper education;

(b) if so, details of the regions where technical institutions are not available till now, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to overcome academic imbalance in those regions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) In order to ensure that students are not deprived of basic education, the Government has put in place the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalisation of Elementary education in the country.

According to the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Union Territories (UT) of Andaman and Nicobar, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and the State of Nagaland, do not have an AICTE approved degree level technical institution. The UT of Lakshadweep does not have an AICTE approved diploma level techical institution. The AICTE which accords approval for the Establishment of new technical institutions does not have any proposals from these UTs/State for setting up of new technical institutions.

In order to mitigate the regional disparities in technical education, the Government has made provisions for reservation of seats in degree and diploma level technical courses for States/UTs lacking such facilities in other States/UTs where such technical education facilities are available. The existing polytechnics in Andaman and Nicobar and Nagaland were supported through a World Bank assisted project called the Third Technician Education Project for capacity expansion, quality enhancement and efficiency improvement. In the XI Plan, it is proposed to have a Central University in each of the 16 States which at present do not have a Central University.

Women trafficking from Assam

*251. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam accounts for around 48 per cent of the women trafficked out from the North-Eastern Region;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action plan of Government to address this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per information received from Assam State Government, there are reports about women from Assam being trafficked outside the State and rescued by appropriate authorities. The reasons indicated are poverty, lack of education, unemployment, unhealthy social living condition, etc.

(c) The State Government has informed that apart from appropriate intervention taken up by the Police Department for prevention and control of trafficking in women and girl children the Social Welfare Department has introduced an Action Plan to set up State Homes for Women rescued from moral danger, training and rehabilitation package through schemes of Swayamsida, promotional NGO action in creating awareness on the evil effects of trafficking.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India also conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking. The Ministry runs Swadhar Shelter Homes, which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to victims of trafficking. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers.

Applications for Grants pending with Maulana Azad Education Fund

*252. MAULANA OBAIDULLA KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of application pending with Maulana Azad Education Fund (MAEF) for grant/aid;

(b) the details of application cleared during the current year, along with the amount sanctioned in each case;

(c) the steps being taken to clear the remaining application; and

(d) the action being taken to substantially increase the fund of MAEF?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) A total of 749 applications for grant-in-aid were pending with the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) on 30/09/2007. State-wise summary of pending applications is given in statement I (*See* below). During the year 2007-08, the Foundation has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1,375 crores; details are given in statement II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Depending on the availability of resources, MAEF has decided to consider on priority applications received before 31/03/2006 and applications from identified minority concentration districts.

The resources available to the Foundation have been augmented and are proposed to be increased further during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The corpus was doubled from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 200 crores last year and a sum of Rs. 50 crores is provided for in the current year.